

**Security Council**

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Identical letters dated 22 March 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to convey to you the following information:

The air forces of the so-called coalition led by the United States of America committed yet another massacre when they bombed the Badiyah boarding school, which is located in the city of Mansurah in the western Raqqah countryside, killing more than 32 children and women, and wounding dozens of innocent Syrian civilians. The attack also destroyed the school, which was being used to house some 50 families that had been displaced from the Aleppo countryside, Raqqah and Tadmur (Palmyra).

This act of aggression is yet another in the series of "coalition" attacks against the sovereignty of the Syrian Arab Republic and its territorial integrity under the pretext of "countering terrorism". Such attacks have compounded the efforts of terrorist organizations, such as Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, the Nusra Front and associated individuals and entities, to spread chaos and wreak destruction. This "coalition", which was established without any coordination with the Syrian Government and outside the framework of the United Nations, and was not authorized by the Security Council, has massacred Syrians in various areas, including Manbij, Ghandurah, Tawkhan al-Kubra and Dabiq in the northern countryside of Aleppo; Albu Kamal and Jabal Thurdah in Dayr al-Zawr; and Hishah, Tabaqah and Mushayrifah in the countryside of Raqqah. Prior international coalition attacks have killed and injured hundreds of Syrians and caused substantial material damage to public and private property, infrastructure and service facilities, including schools, hospitals, bridges, dams, oil and gas fields, and power stations.

It is disappointing that the United Nations and the Security Council, in particular, have stood by silently and failed to condemn these crimes. They have also not demanded that the perpetrators halt such attacks and refrain from carrying out such attacks again, nor have they attempted to hold the perpetrators accountable.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic calls on the Security Council to fulfil its responsibility to put an end to the massacres that this coalition has been committing and destruction that it has been causing. The Government reaffirms that



the actions of the "international coalition" are completely contrary to the professed desire of its members to combat terrorism and their supposed concern for the Syrian people and its prosperity and security. As we have stated in our previous letters to you, the attacks carried out by the "coalition" kill innocent Syrian civilians, destroy the capacities and achievements of the Syrian people and increase its suffering, and create a fertile ground for extremism and terrorism.

The Syrian Arab Republic reiterates its conviction that prior coordination and complete cooperation with the Syrian Government are necessary elements of any sincere effort to counter terrorism, as are consolidating counter-terrorism efforts, addressing the issue of foreign terrorist fighters and implementing the relevant Security Council resolutions, the most recent of which is resolution 2253 (2015), which calls for the consolidation of efforts at all levels aimed at addressing the threat posed by terrorism to international peace and security, and at combating the financing of terrorism.

I should be grateful if this letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mounzer Mounzer
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chargé d'affaires a.i.